

**Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)**  
**Oral Health Office - Bureau of Family Health Services**  
**Community Water Fluoridation Grants**  
**Request for Proposal (RFP)**  
**October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020 (FY 2020)**

## **Background**

Fluoridation has been identified as the most feasible and cost-effective method of delivering fluoride to all members of a community, regardless of age, education, or income. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that for every \$1 invested in community water fluoridation, up to \$20 in dental care can be saved. The CDC has also identified fluoridation as one of the Ten Great Public Health Achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Scientists in the United States and other countries have studied the safety and benefits of fluoridated water for over 75 years, and found no convincing evidence to link water fluoridation to any potential unwanted health effect. In Alabama, approximately 74 percent of communities provide water fluoridation at optimal levels. Increasing that percentage will improve the quality of life and reduce overall healthcare costs for additional Alabama citizens.

## **Desired Outcomes**

This RFP seeks the following outcomes:

- To issue grant funds to those public water systems wishing to initiate, update, or expand the basic public health practice of community water fluoridation.
- To increase dental preventive measures and improve overall health and well being.

## **Eligible Applicants**

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) is offering fluoridation grants to eligible Alabama public water systems who wish to initiate, update, or expand community water fluoridation. These grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. To qualify for funding, water systems must submit a grant application based on established guidelines. To qualify, systems must:

- Be a public water system.
- Be able to enter into a grant agreement with ADPH.
- Be approved to fluoridate by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).
- Provide a letter of support from the local water authority and ADEM.

## **Available Funding**

Funding for this grant will be provided by federal dollars from the ADPH Oral Health Office, Bureau of Family Health Services. The ADPH will offer up to \$100,000.00 to fund the grants, and the maximum award per water system will be \$25,000.00. Grantees are obligated to cover any additional cost exceeding the maximum award amount of \$25,000.00. Costs incurred will be on a reimbursable basis, and no reimbursements will be made prior to October 1, 2019. These funds are to be used to start a new fluoridation program, resume a previously discontinued program, or continue/expand an existing fluoridation program.

**Please note that water systems who applied for a fluoridation grant within the past 12 months, and were not funded, will receive extra points in the scoring process.**

## **Budget Requirements**

Funds can be used for purchasing:

- New equipment to replace, initiate, or expand a current fluoridation program.
- Engineering services needed to begin fluoridation.
- Modifications to existing water system equipment.
- Equipment for daily testing of fluoride levels.
- Safety equipment for fluoride handling.

Funds CANNOT be used for purchasing:

- Office equipment
- To match other federal funds
- New building construction
- Personnel salaries.

## **Application Content**

Please provide the following information in the order listed:

1. A detailed description of the need for the new or additional equipment and supplies. (10 points)
2. An itemized budget including equipment, supplies (including fluoride chemicals), installation, engineering, and other required cost estimates to initiate, update, or expand fluoridation. (10 points)
3. A plan for implementing or expanding a fluoridation program, including a project timeline and sustainability plan. (10 points)
4. Letters of support from local water authority and ADEM. (10 points)
5. Documentation of previous (within past 12 months) grant application that was submitted but not approved. (e.g.letter from funding agency, copy of grant application, etc.). (10 points)

6. Evaluation of population served (priority will be given to highest population served). (15 points)
7. Additional points awarded to systems looking to add fluoride to a new well or plant. (15 points)
8. Additional points awarded to systems that have no previous history of fluoridation (20 points)

## **Required Activities**

Upon receiving an award, grantees will be required to complete the following activities:

1. In a timely manner, provide all requested information to complete and fully execute an ADPH Grant document.
2. Purchase equipment, supplies, and services needed to initiate, update, or expand fluoridation.
3. Install equipment and initiate new fluoridation activity according to project timeline and deliverables identified in Grant document.
4. Provide copies of all paid invoices for reimbursement to the ADPH State Fluoridation Coordinator by deadline identified in the Grant document (no later than August 14, 2020).
5. Participate in site visits by ADPH staff.
6. Notify ADEM and ADPH of fluoridation start date.
7. Submit monthly operating reports (MORs) to the ADPH State Fluoridation Coordinator.
8. Agree to continue fluoridating for a minimum of 5 years.

## **Reporting**

Grantees will:

- Submit paid invoices for reimbursement by required deadline.
- Provide Monthly Operational Reports (MORs) for inclusion in CDC's Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS).
- Accept routine site visits by ADPH staff.
- Provide progress reports and/or other documents as requested by the ADPH State Fluoridation Coordinator.

## **Deadline for submission**

Applications must be received by close of business on Friday September 20, 2019. All applications received after this date will not be accepted. Applications must be submitted either

electronically or by U.S mail to State Fluoridation Coordinator Summer Macias:  
[summer.macias@adph.state.al.us](mailto:summer.macias@adph.state.al.us)

Summer Macias  
State Water Fluoridation Coordinator  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
Oral Health Office  
RSA Tower, Suite 1374D  
201 Monroe St.  
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